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May 2, 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR: DR. KISSINGER

FROM: HAROLD H. SAUNDERS

SUBJECT: Soviet Involvement in Egypt

Attached for your reference is a short memo produced by CIA at our request summarizing the development of Soviet military involvement in Egypt over the past five years. It was deliberately written to present the familiar facts in a way that you may find useful in preparing for the Moscow summit meetings. The fold out chart inside the back cover may be all you need to refresh your picture of the pattern of Soviet arms deliveries to Egypt.

The study highlights two lines of development:

1. The graphs at the end of the book as well as the text describe the ups and downs in the volume of Soviet deliveries to Egypt as well as the basic general increase over these years. Particularly relevant to the summit is the fact that the Soviet airlift in April represented a peak, the likes of which we have not seen since March 1971.
2. The text makes clear the evolution not only of the increased Soviet commitment to Egypt's defense but the gradual buildup of the Soviets' own position in Egypt. In this connection, the one thing the paper does not dwell on is the extent to which the Soviets have introduced sophisticated equipment like the SA-6, apparently for the sole purpose of protecting their own installations. It also does not deal in any detail with the fact that the Soviets have introduced the FOXBAT to provide an aerial reconnaissance facility for the Egyptians over the Sinai. But those are just two details. The basic picture is clear.

I am providing copies of this to Hal Sonnenfeldt for whatever further use may be desirable in connection with preparation of the President's briefing material.

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